

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 16, 19-20 and 22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 16 are amended. Various amendments are made for clarity and are unrelated to issues of patentability.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and/or (3) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. More specifically, the above amendments are merely for clarity of previously-claimed subject matter. Entry is thus proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Independent claim 1 recites for each service vendor, performing a cell search of the respective service vendor by scanning the stored usage frequencies and then by scanning a frequency band allocated to the respective service vendor. Paragraphs [0011], [0013] and [0036] of the present specification support the features of independent claim 1 (as well as independent claim 16). See also FIG. 3, blocks S2 and S4 as well as original dependent claim 8. Applicant respectfully submits that the specification satisfies the written description requirement (with respect to independent claims 1 and 16). Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-2, 5-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0168976 to Krishnan in view of U.S. Patent 5,734,980 to Hooper et al.

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(hereafter Hooper) and U.S. Patent Publication 2005/0153696 to Chao et al. (hereafter Chao).

The Office Action also rejects claims 16, 19-20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Krishnan in view of Hooper and Chao. The rejections are respectfully traversed with respect to the pending claims.

Independent claim 1 recites receiving system information from a Radio Resource Control of a UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access Network, wherein the received system information comprises frequency information of service vendors, obtaining usage frequencies of service vendors from the received system information, and storing the obtained usage frequencies of service vendors in memory of user equipment. Independent claim 1 also recites for each service vendor, performing a cell search of the respective service vendor by scanning the stored usage frequencies and then by scanning a frequency band allocated to the respective service vendor, wherein the cell search for each service vendor is performed about the stored usage frequencies of the respective service vendor and then about all frequency bands allocated to the respective service vendor when a requested frequency is not found when searching the stored frequencies of the respective service vendors.

The applied references do not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 1. More specifically, the Office Action states that Krishnan does not disclose features relating to performing the cell search when scanning the stored usage frequency in a frequency band allocated to each service vendor. The Office Action (on pages 4-5) then cites Hooper's FIG. 2, steps 70-74 as teaching that a cell search is performed based on a table received from a

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BS so the table must be received first before starting the cell search. The Office Action also cites Hooper's paragraph [27]. However, there is no paragraph labeled [27] in Hooper. The Office Action relies on Hooper's col. 7, lines 22-30 and 61-64 as teaching that a next frequency of a list 64 is sequentially scanned. However, this does not teach or suggest the claimed features of for each service vendor, performing a cell search of the respective service vendor by scanning the stored usage frequencies and then by scanning a frequency band allocated to the respective service vendor. Hooper does not suggest these features relating to scanning the stored usage frequencies and then by scanning a frequency band. Hooper also does not teach or suggest that the cell search for each service vendor is performed about the stored usage frequencies of the respective service vendor and then about all frequency bands allocated to the respective service vendor when a requested frequency is not found when searching the stored frequencies of the respective service vendors.

For at least these reasons, Krishnan and Hooper do not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 1. Chao does not teach or suggest the features of independent claim 1 missing from Krishnan and Hooper. Thus, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 16 recites a processing device to separately perform a cell search for each service vendor, wherein the cell search for each service vendor is performed by scanning the stored usage frequencies and then by scanning a frequency band allocated to the respective service vendor. Independent claim 16 further recites the processing device performs the cell

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search of a specific service vendor about the stored usage frequencies of the specific service vendor, and then performs the cell search about all frequency bands allocated to the specific service vendor when a requested frequency is not found when searching the stored frequencies of the specific service vendor.

For at least similar reasons as set forth above, the applied references do not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 16. More specifically, Krishnan, Hooper and Chao do not teach or suggest a processing device to separately perform a cell search for each service vendor, wherein the cell search for each service vendor is performed by scanning the stored usage frequencies and then by scanning a frequency band allocated to the respective service vendor. Krishnan, Hooper and Chao also do not teach or suggest that the processing device performs the cell search of a specific service vendor about the stored usage frequencies of the specific service vendor, and then performs the cell search about all frequency bands allocated to the specific service vendor when a requested frequency is not found when searching the stored frequencies of the specific service vendor. Thus, independent claim 16 defines patentable subject matter.

For at least the reasons set forth above, each of independent claims 1 and 16 defines patentable subject matter. Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 16, 19-20 and 22 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KBD & ASSOCIATES, LLP



David C. Oren
Registration No. 38,694

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200

(703) 766-3777 DCO/kah

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Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610